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THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYATCHI : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) Government considered these resolutions and necessary orders have been passed and communicated to the Association.

Gratuity to retrenched workers of textile mills

* 3156 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the retrenched workers of the textile mills in the State were given any gratuity in 1954 and 1955; and

(*b*) if so, the number that was given such gratuity and the total amount given?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) During 1954, 144 persons were given gratuity amounting to Rs. 18,249-9-7. During 1955, there was no retrenchment up to 1st October 1955.

Loans to agriculturists under Community Projects and National Extension Service Schemes

* 3157 *Q.*—SRI P. K. MOOKIAH THEVAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the maximum amount fixed for special loans granted to bona fide agriculturists under the Community Projects and National Extension Service Schemes; and

(*b*) whether the Government are aware of the hardship felt by the agriculturists in obtaining encumbrance certificates required for the grant of these loans?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The maximum amounts fixed are as follows :—

(i) Loans under the Land Improvements Loans and Agriculturists Loans Act—

	Maximum amount. RS.
Individuals	3,000
Co-operative societies and groups of ayacutdars	5,000
(ii) *Loans under Hire Purchase System*—	
Electric motor pumpsets	1,500
Oil engine pumpsets	2,000

(*b*) Yes, Sir.

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The Government have since ordered that encumbrance certificates should be demanded only in cases where the loan amounts exceed Rs. 500 and that in cases of loans for Rs. 500 or below, the verification of registration records should be done by a person duly authorized by the Project Officers or Special Loans Tahsildar.

[*Note*.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. SPEAKER.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

MR. SPEAKER: I have to announce to the House the following message, dated the 13th January 1956, received from the Governor of Madras:—

In pursuance of Article 207, clause (3), of the Constitution of India, I, Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Assembly the consideration of the Madras State Aid to Industries (Amendment) Bill, 1956.

IV.—PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1956-57.

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, I rise to present to this Legislature the Budget Estimates for 1956–57 and the Revised Estimates for the current year. Both these estimates reflect the adverse turn in our fortunes caused by the recent cyclone which devastated large tracts in the districts of Ramanathapuram, Tanjore, Madurai and Tiruchirappalli. The disruption to communications was so severe that it took time for information to trickle through to the centres of district administration. The Chief Minister immediately made an aerial survey of the affected areas along with Members of the Board of Revenue, and personally took charge of all relief operations. The havoc caused in the areas can be roughly assessed from the figures of 520 people killed, 35,000 heads of cattle and 110,000 sheep and goats perished in the floods, 300,000 houses damaged or destroyed, 500,000 trees, mostly coconut, uprooted and 4,600 irrigation tanks breached. Immediate arrangements were made to air-drop rice supplies to the marooned people. Gruel centres were opened in all the affected villages; and special staff was organized to restore communications, repair irrigation works, and assist the people to reconstruct their dwellings. A free grant of about Rs. 30 per family was made to all those who had lost their houses, and free distribution of clothing was also arranged to indigent people, especially women. Adequate stocks of foodgrains

Cyclone-Relief